

***Pheasant Fanciers
Game Breeders and
Aviculturists***

G A Z E T T E



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November
1954

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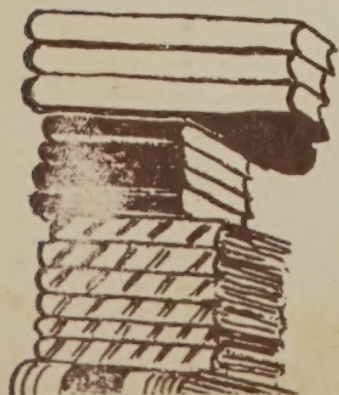
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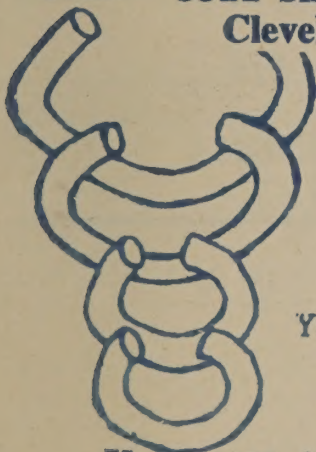
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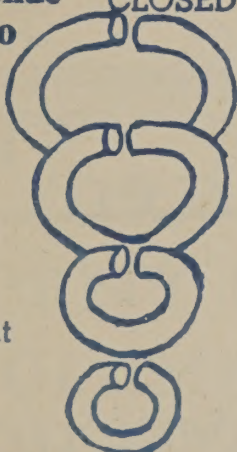
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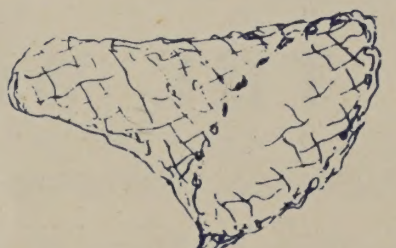
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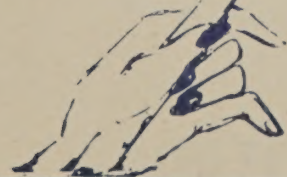
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Whether They Be Engaged in Raising Birds for a Vocation or Avocation.

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VOL. III

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No. II

— ✧ — CONTENTS — ✧ —

EDITORIAL	- - - - -	10
PHOTOGRAPHS		
The Mallard Hen	- - - - - Canadian Conservation Dept.	11
Temminck's Tragopan	- - - - - Falcon Studio	14
Fairy Penguins	- - - - - N. Murray	32-34
PHEASANTS AND GAME BIRDS		
Stockmanship	- - - - - Terry Jones	12-15
Prepare for Winter	- - - - - Paul Hartzog	20
He Talks	- - - - - Mrs. Rene P. Sargent	30
Chajas—(South American Game Bird)	- - - - -	31
PARROTS AND SMALL CAGE BIRDS		
Breeding The Red-Collared Lorakeet	- - - - - H. A. Gerrits	16-18
Question and Answer Department	- - - - - L. S. Poisal	19
FEATURES		
Oddities in Ornathology	- - - - - Calvin Wilson	21
A Feather in His Hat	- - - - - R. L. Cunningham	
Darenth-Hulme 1954	- - - - - Kay Bonner	24-26
Tempus Fugit	- - - - - Harry Lather	28-29
Fairy Penguins of Australia	- - - - - Margaret Lawrence	32-35
About Books	- - - - -	27
AVICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND OFFICERS	- - - - -	23
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING	- - - - -	36-41
BREEDERS DISPLAY ADVERTISING	- - - - -	42-62

Drawings and Art by Gazette Staff Artist



Is it possible for you to detect from the expression on the face of the bird pictured on the cover if it is in a happy mood, is it sad, is it in pain, angry, defiant, pleased, disgruntled, elated or dissatisfied?

We know that all living things possess many of these emotions, but by what outward expressions or actions can they be elicited?

The nature poet, Wordsworth, states, "... Every flower enjoys the air it breathes." The editor, while at university, had the privilege of witnessing a great professor of botany from Bombay demonstrate by graphic experiment the pain suffered by a plant when killed by boiling water. . . . We therefore know that both plant and animal life have emotions depending on and limited by its place in the evolutionary scale.

Now let us consider the emotions of the avian world. The bird in the tree-top, the heath or the meadow sings happily to his mate nestling on its egg in a leafy bower nearby. But his song is no more joyful than that of his caged counterpart whose feed-cups are loaded with the seeds and tit-bits of its liking. The call of alarm is less frequent by the captive who has learned to love and not to fear its keeper.

Those who are observant, recognize the meal-time chuckles of happiness of their game birds as they leisurely select the choice and tasty morsels first from their ample rations. The subdued and hardly audible chatter of affection when the birds are in close proximity is unmistakable and in marked contrast to the audacious mating calls and the gallant challenge to combat. There are many other sounds in the bird's emotional repertoire; such as the mother's purr of contentment when on her nest, her call to her nervous family and her good-night clucks to the little ones snuggling close to her breast, assuring them that all is well, until the last peep indicates that they are lost in the dreams of a joyful day chasing insects and frolicking in the lush vegetation.

Now, we humans have facial muscles which make possible the many expressions of our emotions. But mobile muscles are absent from the bird's face and therefore they lack the ability of facial expression. However, the trained eye or sensitive ear will detect the temperament of the avian subject by its voice and its actions.

GAA





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STOCKMANSHIP

by TERRY JONES



Leckford Abbas, Stockbridge, Hampshire, England.

EDITOR'S NOTE—Mr. Jones is one of the world's foremost breeders of Upland Game Birds and Waterfowl. The editor had the privilege of spending a day with Mr. Jones last summer and was impressed with the extensiveness and the beauty of the pheasantry and the unlimited facilities for the breeding of these birds as well as the innumerable varieties of rare ducks and geese. A visit to the bird farm of Mr. Jones is an education in game bird husbandry. His desire to impart his knowledge in a helpful way is equalled only by his cordiality and natural friendliness.

Mr. Jones and his assistants have the "know-how" only too uncommon with most breeders. Many years of experience has qualified him to successfully raise the rarest of birds where most of the other breeders have failed.

It is a pity

that few breeders of wild birds, be they Grass Parrakeets or Pheasants, have any knowledge of Stockmanship. Many are skilled bird keepers, but few keep any form of pedigrees, or practice any form of selection other than that of appearance.

The successful breeder who com-

petes in laying trials, or the successful owner of a stud of racing pigeons can tell you everything about any of their birds' ancestries. How many keepers of ornamental pheasants know how the grandmother of a bird laid? Few could point out any given bird's grandmother, let alone give details of that lady's vitality. That is how inherited troubles get the upper hand—infertility in Brown Manchurians, for example.



Having mentioned Manchurians, let us take them as an example.

The species is not likely to be imported again. The present stock descends from three birds imported into France in the eighteen eighties. It is a species well worth saving. We have a few birds here breeding satisfactorily. They are the product of the post-war union of the surviving European stock (a single hen) and three American birds. Some of these young birds have gone and are going back to America and it is your country now, not Europe, which must be responsible for the upkeep of stocks. **FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE DON'T GO CROSSING SPECIES.** I read with regret that American Mikados are

liable to contain Elliott's blood, because they were sterile; the Imperials are fakes and now people are faking Sonnerats Jungle fowl. There is, of course, a perfectly good reason for out-crossing the Imperial and the White Manchurian.

I do not know how many breeding pairs of Brown Manchurian there are in America, but if the owners of fertile pairs will exchange with each other and run as many hens as possible with a good cock so as to diffuse his blood, this should help to combat inherited infertility. Buyers should also try buying a hen from 'A' and a male from 'B'. Buy young birds—you are less likely to be done!

Professor Ghigi has an interesting line on infertility in Brown Manchurians. He thinks that probably the males are not sterile, they are simply perverted. He bought a young male from me. He says it is a magnificent bird, very virile and pugnacious, but though his mate throws herself at his feet all spring, he never mates. He only wants to fight and crow and his wife is only a companion. Professor Ghigi is proposing to experiment with artificial insemination. This may be a way of producing fertile eggs, but suppose we evolve a race of males who never mate naturally and that could quite easily happen. Artificial insemination is very useful if one has to use a crippled male bird, but not otherwise. Birds can be selected for fertility as easily as they can be selected for rose combs or five toes.



Elliot Pheasant



Mikado
Pheasant





Temminck's Tragopan
(Leckford bird)



Golden Pheasant

I will say nothing about the feeding of the birds; your foods are far more diverse than ours.

Keep the species to which your climate is suited, make your aviaries or pens as large as possible. And, remember, it is not inbreeding which makes infertility, crooked toes or weediness. It is unselected inbreeding which does this. Very often, especially with carelessly inbred species, you will notice some chicks in a brood grow better than others; eventually the laggards catch up and when mature all look alike. But, if you regularly mark the good growers while you can see them and select these for future breeding you are less likely to have as many slow growers in the subsequent generations.

I have rather harped on the Brown Manchurian when talking about inbred stock, but Swinhoe, for example, is I believe descended from a single pair. All Temmincks Tragopans any-

where in captivity trace back to the Leckford birds. Incidentally, we have sent you nearly one hundred since the war. All Mikados are descended from the birds Monsieur Delacour imported to Cleres. We purchased two pairs in 1938 and I do not think we have bought in another bird since that date, yet we reared over forty this year.

There are some thousands of Amherst living perfectly wild lives in various parts of this country and smaller numbers of Reeves and Goldens living likewise. In the United States, with its vast areas and diverse climates, it should be possible to naturalize quite a few species successfully. And that would make a natural reservoir for replenishing aviary stocks if necessary, besides enhancing the interest of the countryside and perhaps giving a new life to a species whose natural home has been destroyed or over-run by the spread of civilization.





On June the 6th 1953 Wassenaar Zoo — after a year of building—opened the LOUISE HALL. This Zoo is owned by Mr. P. W. LOUWMAN, who started the Zoo in 1937 and built it up from a few aviaries to a worldknown establishment with the greatest bird collection of the world.

This tremendous bird collection needed a new house, so that Mr. LOUWMAN decided to build a big hall, which he named the LOUISE HALL. This hall is—as I believe—the biggest bird house in the world, entirely made of glass and steel. The walls and the roof are all glass, mounted in small wooden rails. The building is supported by steel stantions, in such a way that every place in this bird house is in full daylight.

This building is 400 ft. long, and more than 60 ft. wide and the top is 24 ft. above the floor. In this hall there are in the center 8 big aviaries of 24 x 27 ft; equally divided on both sides are 36 aviaries of 12 x 7 ft. and 12 aviaries of 24 x 7 feet. At the end of each side are 16 smaller cages for parrots, cockatoos and other birds who are set apart in this part of the bird house because of their habit of destroying all plants and flowers in the aviaries. So the total number of cages and aviaries is exactly 88.

It is quite impossible to give you a more detailed description of this bird hall. You



Breeding *The Red-Collared* **LORAKEET**

by H. A. GERRITS

Curator of Birds, Wassenaar Zoo, Holland

have to see it with your own eyes to get an impression how beautifully everything is arranged with rocks, ponds, trees, plants,

flowers and last but not least the collection of birds consisting of the rarest specimen from all parts of the world.

One of the aviaries of this hall contains a group of six red-collared lorikeets, *Trichoglossus rubritorques*, directly imported from their native land, N. W. Australia.

These lorikeets have been imported in the winter of 1952 and arrived at the Zoo on the 10th of February 1953. They were caged in our old bird house and as soon as the aviaries in the LOUISE HALL were ready for use, we brought them in their new surroundings.

In the meantime it was June 1953 and the birds were in a very good condition. Although they sometimes had a little quarrel, they generally have been getting on very well.

There was some difference in the color of the neckring, but still it was nearly impossible to sex them with a certainty. The coloring of the "red" color varied from bright orange to vivid red and it proved soon that this fact had nothing to do with their sex. However the behaviour of the birds showed us that we had males and females but it was still impossible to find out the exact number of each.

In August we placed three nest boxes, completely covered with bark, in their



aviary, but the birds did not take any notice of it. After some weeks two lorikeets were inspecting the boxes and from that time on they were always seen together playing and feeding in the neighborhood of the nest box. About the 15th of September one of the lorikeets went regularly into the nest box and a few days afterwards the pair everyday spent a couple of hours together in the box. Now we were sure that these two birds formed a couple and we observed, at least with regard to this couple, that the male had a darker neckring than the female. This may be a sex marking but as we are only sure of this one pair so far it would be premature to state this as a general rule. In this couple anyway the male was easily distinguished by this red ring compared with the much lighter orange-red ring of the female.

The birds were the whole day very busy to prepare the nest according to their taste. The birds enlarged the entrance hole and the moist rotten wood, we had put in, was cut into very small pieces.

Finally on the 18th of October the first egg was laid, followed by a second one on the 21st. The eggs were pure white without any coloration. The incubation period takes 24 days and according to this they hatched on the 14th of November.

During the incubation period the eggs were never let alone. If the female, who was fed by the male, left the nest for her daily exercise and self-feeding, the male incubated the eggs. After the returning of the female the male stayed for some hours with her in the nest box so that apparently they had made a very good marriage.

As soon as the eggs were hatched the male doubled his food supply to the nest and both parents were feeding their offspring very good. We never heard the youngsters making any noise. During the incubation period we never touched the nest, neither did we moisten it. The other four inhabitants of the aviary never tried to disturb the nest. It seemed as if they were not even conscious of what was going on. In any case they did not show the slightest interest.

On December 30th the young lorikeets left the nest in completely the same coloring as their parents. Only their black bills proved that this was a young generation.



It was a remarkable fact that the parents had divided their offspring in such a way that the male was only feeding his and the female her favorite child. This fact could be noticed because the offspring showed the same differences as the parents, i.e., light and dark colored neckrings. The color of the bills is changing rather quickly so that now only the rims are still black. The youngsters are now feeding independently but the parents still take part in the feeding.

The other lorikeets are not quarreling with the young birds so that it is not necessary to transport them to another aviary which is rather a good thing as we are not sure with regard to the above mentioned that the birds are completely able to feed without any help of the parents.

The food of these lorikeets is composed of a seed mixture of which they are eating very little and milksop containing equal part of milk and water, brown sugar, ground rusk and tomato juice. Apple is

given every day together with greenfood while a certain part of the aviary is covered with broken grit.

The parents are showing signs of a second nidification. Contrary to our expectations they are now neglecting the old nesting box, but intend to make their new home in one of the other available boxes.

This was the story of only one of the three couples and now, at the time of writing this article I can tell you that the remaining four birds proved to be two couples and they are all breeding.

So this year was a very lucky one and our aviary with the red-collared lorikeets is at this moment populated with three pairs of parents and eight youngsters.

The oldest four are completely fullgrown and it is quite impossible to distinguish them from their parents.

END



QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

By L. S. POISAL

2150 Howe Ave., Sacramento, California

President-Pacific Budgie Association

Judge of Parrakeet, Canary and

Ornamental Pheasant shows.



Question—

My Canaries that should have been marketed by now are still not singing and seem to have colds that do not respond to regular treatment of Sulmet or Aureomycin. Can you help me? —C.A.H., Madison 4, Wis.

Answer—

Have found in hard to treat cases of colds contracted during moult that they will respond better to a good spray. We use McClellans Bronchial Spray made for poultry and it seldom fails to work.



Question—

Can I spray birds right in their cage either for mites, or in case of colds. —G.H.D., Stockton, California

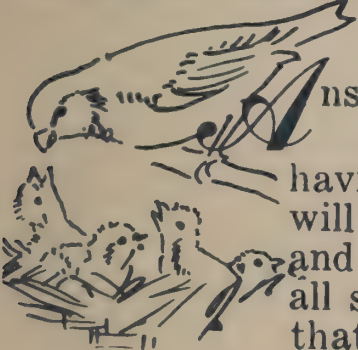
Answer—

Yes, there are several sprays that are absolutely safe to spray right in the cage, however, read the directions always. In most cases you are warned by the manufacturer not to spray close enough to wet the bird but to stay back far enough so that just the fumes (or a fog) engulfs the bird. And in a cage, such as a show cage, is an excellent place to treat them as the front can be partially covered and the spray will have much more effect.

Question—

What causes my birds, both canaries and Budgies, to Go Light.

—F.H.R., Toledo, Ohio



Answer—

Going light in birds is usually caused by birds getting chilled and not having the proper diet. During the breeding season many breeding birds will go light because they give all nourishment to the growing youngsters and keep none for themselves. Be sure no egg food is left to sour, see that all seed is sweet and clean with no mouldy seeds left for them to eat and that your Grit supply is of the Mineral type rather than worthless gravel or granite neither of which contains any minerals.

Question—

Will Budgies stand as much cold as canaries? Can I keep them in out door aviaries here in our climate? —Geo. A. T., Oklahoma

Answer—

I do not know how cold your winters are there in Oklahoma but I would think that you would have to have quite a bit of protection in the winter. Budgies will stand as much cold or more than Canaries. A small brooder heater "Electric" hung in one corner of the house will keep the chill off an average room and should make the house livable except in extremely cold weather.





Prepare for Winter



by PAUL HARTZOG
Niles, Michigan



EDITOR'S NOTE—Mr. Hartzog is an outstanding example of a successful operator of an ornamental game bird farm. He makes his hobby play because he raises and sells only first class birds. **QUALITY ALWAYS FINDS A MARKET**, and consequently there is always a market for his birds. He uses all the approved and latest methods and has developed numerous techniques which he magnanimously passes along to his fellow game breeders. He believes that the future of pheasant husbandry lies in the free interchange of ideas. A strong believer in the benefits derived from organization, he attends and is very active in the American Pheasant Society and other groups. Many beginners have greatly profited by associating with him.



WINTER will soon be upon us and all spare time should be devoted to preparations which will provide comfortable wintering conditions for your flock of birds. Your outside water pipes should be turned off or protected so that next spring they will be in condition for functioning with the first break in the cold weather.

Reviewing your year's work you now know how successful it has been and you can reflect on your mistakes and plan methods to avoid them in the future. If you have produced just one pure blooded bird you have something about which you can be proud.

Now that the days are getting short and if you are hand feeding grain once a day be sure that you distribute it to them early enough that they may be well fed before darkness approaches. Mash or pellet feeders should be raised off the ground to avoid dampness and snow. The birds need this feed more in the winter than in the summer and great care should be taken to keep in good edible condition. Bugs and worms are very scarce from now on and the birds need the protein that the mash contains.

It is well if you have the space to separate your cock birds from the hens. They do better this way. If the cock birds are inclined to fight, snip off $\frac{3}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch of the upper beak and trim any sharp spurs. It seems to be an old custom to give the hens more attention than the cocks during the off breeding season. Both should be well housed, fed and pampered.

We have our cull apples in the apple pit and from this we provide one good

feeding of apples a week. Pheasants make short work of lettuce and no doubt your supermarket will provide you with ample lettuce which should be fed twice a week through the winter months. Birds need green food and fruit regularly and providing it will make for better birds.

When shipping your birds do not catch and crate them when they are wet. It is not easy for a wet bird to dry itself when in a crate and to avoid possible colds shipping should be delayed if the birds are wet. Don't forget to provide the birds with moisture all winter, a good pan of water (if not freezing) when snow is on the ground no water is needed. A pan of chipped ice will also suffice.

Provide at least protection against the wind. Do not crowd your birds. The ground should be dry at all times and if it holds puddles or water put several inches of pea gravel and sand on the bottom of the cages. Birds will drink the contaminated water from the bottom of the pens and sickness often will result.

It is my belief that every game breeder should belong to a game breeders society. The American Pheasant Society is an organization chiefly for breeders of ornamental pheasants and waterfowl. One of the tenets of the group is fair dealing with all purchasers of birds. No birds should be misrepresented. Fairness and honesty is stressed because only by this practice will the pheasant industry reach the heights to which it is entitled. Pure stock should be the aim of all breeders. Eliminate the culls but do not sell them for others to use as breeders. The experienced breeder never keeps inferior stock.

Oddities in Ornithology

By CALVIN WILSON

Supt. of the Tracy Aviaries,

Salt Lake City, Ut



Believe it or not . . . Mr. Boyd Shaffer found Goshawks feeding heavily on Snowshoe Rabbits while hunting deer at an approximate 8,000 foot elevation in Wasatch County in Utah. The discovery of what these hawks were feeding on is not of any great importance, but the fact that they could and did lift their heavy burdens to some twenty and thirty foot elevations is noteworthy.



Mr. Shaffer gives us some other very interesting facts about these savage hawks. First, is their great reluctance to abandon their game when disturbed and their surprising ability to carry it aloft.

Second, is their power to carry their quarry away. Often there is little doubt that the rabbit would weigh as much and perhaps more than the hawk.

Believe it or not . . . Mr. Tom Baines, Curator of the Calgary Zoological Society sent in a very interesting "believe it or not". He tells of a robin that nested and successfully raised a brood of four with the nest on top of a moving part of the merry-go-round. This unusual fact happened some four years past.



Were this piece of machinery not in use this story would not be of any unusual interest but as this was in almost continual motion it meant the incubating bird would be in constant motion and also the feeding of the young would be a real problem. Mr. Baines tells us that he observed the parent birds waiting with food for the young many times until the machine stopped to permit new customers to get on.

Believe it or not . . . the Western Nighthawk very often nests on the flat tops of buildings where the temperature must be terrific during the hot June and July days.



The white eggs, generally two in number, have no nest whatever and the only protection from the elements is the brooding female. As many buildings have an asphalt covering the sun's heat naturally is retained during the hot weather.

Perhaps this odd nesting habit was developed because of the fact that as the city's lights went on during the approach of sunset drew multitude of insect life which the birds feed on during flight. Also there is little chance of being disturbed in this location.

Believe it or not . . . a drake Shoveller at the Tracy Aviary has lived in the waterfowl pond for sixteen years. This is indeed a long life span for this duck specie. Generally these ducks are rather delicate and a six year life span could be considered at least average.



This particular bird was secured in the early fall of 1938 with an injured wing.

R. L. CUNNINGHAM



Rearing waterfowl of quality is an art developed almost to perfection by R. L. Cunningham of Woodinville, Washington. Reports of his accomplishments, by competent observers, indicate that he has developed a relatively small area into a breeding and rearing plant which might well be a model for other waterfowl breeders to imitate. His limited amount of water and space is used successfully by many species, predominantly swans.

The grace and beauty of these aquatic birds is exhibited only when they are in their natural element and on Mr. Cunningham's ponds most of the species of the swan family are proudly displaying their beautiful plumage with the poise and natural elegance for which they are traditionally famous.

He is considered a national authority on these birds and among his writings is an article published in the October 1953 issue of THE GAZETTE, namely, SWANS AS ORNAMENTAL WATERFOWL.

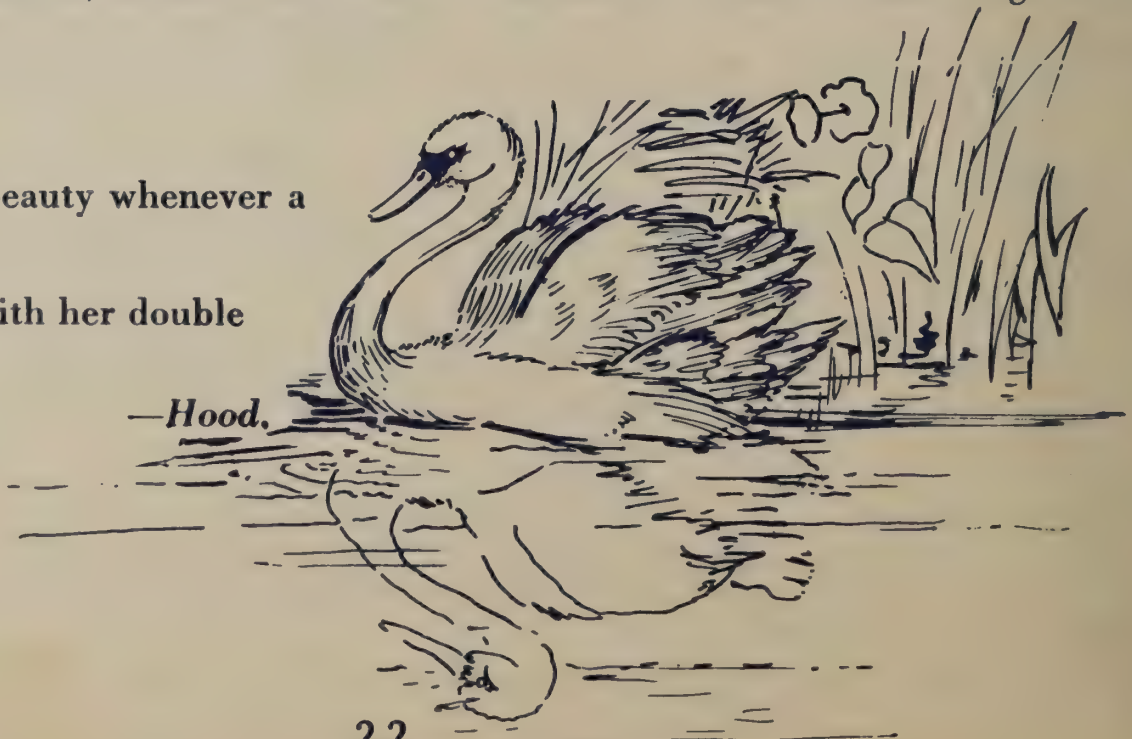
Mr. Cunningham endorses and supports avicultural groups and for his efforts in behalf of furthering their programs he was honored, several years past, by being made president of The Northwest Avicultural Society. At the expiration of the incumbent's term he will again head this organization.

Mr. Cunningham's modesty assures us that the feathered bonnet he will henceforth use will never become too tight and that he will wear his aplumed hat with aplomb and distinction. The GAZETTE is honored to make this award to such a deserving breeder and gentleman.

There's a double beauty whenever a
swan

Swims on a lake, with her double
thereon.

—Hood.



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IF YOU TELL A WOMAN SHE IS
BEAUTIFUL, WHISPER IT SOFTLY.

Durivage.

Darenth- Hulme 1954

by KAY BONNER, Assistant Secretary
Avicultural Society, Southgate, England

In England the suburban aviculturist must needs have the patience of a veritable Job or Griselda. For he or she will assuredly suffer many trials and tribulations—neighbours—vermin, rats, mice, grey squirrels—domestic and semi-feral cats—owls—and the weather, but perhaps the least said about that the better!

Our garden, fortunately, is comparatively large, so we have not yet had any neighbour-trouble, but we do exercise considerable discretion regarding the birds put in the aviaries. The cat nuisance has in our case been overcome by the installation of electric fencing. Rats occasionally show their ugly selves and there is then no peace of mind until they have been eliminated. Mice constitute an ever-present problem, and really the best one can hope is to keep down their number. We have used many pounds of the fashionable anti-blood-coagulant baits, but we still think the best results are obtained by the use of the break-back type of mouse trap. Squirrels can prove a great nuisance and these we usually manage to catch in modified cage-type rat-traps. We have found no successful method of dealing with the owl menace.

A few notes on our aviaries may prove of interest, as indicative of the birds kept in one of the larger collections. But first let me say the past breeding season has been very poor, in fact it is really remarkable how few young ones have been reared. It is fortunate therefore that, in spite of the

atrocious weather, even including the near Arctic conditions. early in the year, the mortality has been extraordinarily low.

The main aviaries consist of a range of eighteen houses 4 feet wide, 3 feet deep, with a sloping roof 4 feet high in front and 3 feet at the back, standing on legs, the floor being raised 3 feet from the ground; attached are 30-foot flights, 6 ft. 6 in. high.

The occupants of these aviaries are:

1. Stanley Parrakeets, a well-tried breeding pair produced only one good young one. Diamond Doves.
2. Princess of Wales' Parrakeets laid but did not hatch.
3. Stanley Parrakeets, and two cock Yellow-naped Whydahs.
4. Cockatiels produced one very under-sized young one that died soon after leaving the nest. Fischer's Lovebirds, a small colony that just succeeds in maintaining itself. One young one was hatched and reared by a pair of Budgerigars. A cock Peach-faced Lovebird.
5. Lineolated Parrakeets, the breeding colony has increased but to what extent is not known exactly. Last year's success was the first in Great Britain.
6. Pennant's Parrakeets, the pair that reared four good ones last year reared two only this season.
7. Abyssinian Lovebirds, the three pairs again failed to reproduce—the third season.
8. Golden-winged Parakeets, the two pairs made no attempt to nest. We are particularly anxious to breed these as they are the only arrivals for many years.
9. Moustache or Banded Parrakeets, most dreadfully noisy and definitely not recommended to any aviculturist likely to suffer from neighbour-trouble.
10. Cactus Conures, a single Weddell's Conure, and Chinese Painted Quail.
11. Two pairs of Yellow-cheeked Conures, both nested unsuccessfully; another pair died during the late winter, feet badly frost-bitten.



Lineolated Parrakeets

12. Two pairs of Canary-winged Parrakeets occupied this aviary early in the season. This species has the reputation of being very quarrelsome and this was confirmed by the fact that one of the quartet was severely maltreated and was rescued only just in time to save its life.
13. Golden-mantled Rosellas reared one only.
14. Black-headed Conures reared one good young one. Cock Delamere's Whydah, a really handsome bird.
15. Barraband's Parrakeets, the cock most unfortunately went down with paralysed legs early in the season, as a consequence the eggs were infertile; he has now nearly recovered.
16. Crimson-winged Parrakeets.
17. Eight Red-bellied Conures occupied this aviary all winter. One died early in the Spring and as no attempts have been made to nest we are wondering whether it might perhaps have been our breeding hen.
18. Seven Yellow-cheeked Conures spend their time in wrecking the aviary, having no inclination to nest.

Running along the back of the shelters there is a service passage and wilderness aviary, giving a flight 72 feet long and 10 feet wide. The occupants are two pairs of Crested Bronze-winged Pigeons, four Purple-headed Glossy Starlings, and a lone hen Amherst Pheasant; the mate of the latter unfortunately escaped, but not from this aviary.



Pennant's Parrakeet

An escape passage and planted aviary, 7 ft. 6 in. wide, stretches along the front of the flights. This year was stocked with two dozen Budgerigars of assorted colours; and the breeding here has been very satisfactory indeed. The 72-foot flight has enabled the young to develop into really fine, robust birds - very different to so many of the control-bred, bird-room birds seen nowadays. For lack of other accommodations two Jobi Island or White-breasted Ground Pigeons (*Gallicolumba jobicnsis*) were put in this flight. Fortunately they proved to be a pair and built a very slight nest, mainly of old millet sprays, precariously constructed on the top of a Budgerigar nest box hanging under shelter in a corner of the flight. Not only did they hatch a young one but they succeeded in rearing it in spite of the Budgerigars. At one time we were troubled by daily visits from a Sparrow Hawk. On these occasions the Budgerigars

panicked and it was not uncommon to find a dozen or fifteen taking refuge with the Pigeons on top of the nest-box. This young one is probably the first reared since Herbert Bright's first success when he reared two young ones in 1922.

An adjoining aviary, 24 feet by 18 feet, contains a colony of twenty-eight Red-faced Lovebirds. I would have liked to describe it as a breeding colony, but such is far from being the case. There is always great activity and much excavating in the blocks of peat moss, but as far as we know there has never been even a single egg. In this aviary there are also Chinese Painted Quail, and breeding Diamond Doves.

We have eight pens mostly 22 feet wide by 17 feet, and one 22 feet by 42 feet. The shelters are made of wattle hurdles and look quite attractive. We used to keep a number of pairs of the commoner pheasants, but we thought the cocks were possibly making too much noise so we disposed of the majority. The pens at present hold a miscellaneous assortment of Golden and Silver Pheasants, domestic pigeons, bantams, Java and Barbary Doves, Bronze-winged and Triangular-spotted Pigeons, and three Pied Imperial Pigeons. The latter, commonly known as Nutmeg Pigeons, are in perfect plumage, the white parts being spotless, snowy-white, so very different to the dull, cream coloured birds sometimes seen in zoos.

A house, 10 feet wide by 6 feet, with flight attached, contains a pair of White-bellied Caiques.

We have two chalet-type bird-rooms. The first houses a pair of Noble Macaws; three Canary-winged, one White-winged, one All-green, and eight Lineolated Parakeets; one Rosella; two Senegal Parrots; two pairs of Emerald-spotted and two pairs of Blue-spotted Wood Doves, and three Peaceful Doves.

The second, only recently completed, has as tenants a pair of Blue-crowned Conures and four Bleeding-heart Pigeons.

The house parrots consist of a pair of Greys, three Senegals, one Brown-headed (*Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*), and one Meyer's.

Finally, at the London Zoological Gardens we have three Nicobar Pigeons and five Green Imperial Pigeons which the Curator of Birds, John Yealland, is kindly keeping for us until next Spring.

THE END

ABOUT BOOKS---

The Gazette sells books because we are repeatedly requested to furnish or to recommend the best books available. These books therefore have been selected on their merits and not because of the sale price or the sales commission.

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EDITOR'S NOTE — A Grand Old Gentleman of the avicultural world looks back on his boyhood in Australia and reviews some of the experiences which have made him a life-long friend of birds.

For many years he has been prominent on the west coast as a breeder of the rarer species of pheasants and other upland game birds. He has been associated with The Western States Pheasant Society and The American Pheasant Society and strongly believes that cooperation of breeders is important for the advancement of the *pheasant industry*.

At the request of *THE GAZETTE* he recbunts in a few paragraphs a lifetime of joy through his communion with his winged friends.



by HARRY LATHER
4330 Primrose Ave., Santa Rosa, Calif.



IT is now many years since I left my birth-place in Southern Queensland, down where the great McPherson range of mountains form a border line between Queensland and New-South Wales. At that time it was a wild and wonderful region of mountain peaks, dense scrub and clear running creeks, teaming with bird life and marvelous vegetation. Birds and plant life, that only the great Master artist of all could create and paint. There my early years were spent, sometimes in lonely solitude with only God's wild creatures as friends and companions. Now as the Evening Sunset of my life is at hand, and I am once more alone, birds are bringing happiness and contentment. The Wonga Wonga pigeons in their nest, up under the eaves, calling for their mate's to come up and take care and do their share of watching over the little breed. The call that I had heard so often as a boy. . . how something like that can cause a tugging at the heart-strings, and memories curtain will rise and



down through the years, another Spring-time will return. Again I am watching the Wonga Wonga's feeding in the early morning along the bullock-waggon trails that the early pioneers cut through the scrub, to bring out the great Red cedar logs. Again I can almost hear the thrilling loud liquid call of the Lyre bird, ascending above all, in the morning hallelulah chorus; the Wam-poo's high up in the great scrub Fig-trees; the Cat birds in the undergrowth; Cockatoo, Parrots, and finding every-thing a big joke; the Laughter-maker, Kookaburra. Then to top off the show, the Lyre bird would imitate every sound, even to the filing of saws, at the saw-mill. Then there were the industrious little fellows, the Blue-black satin bower bird, and the Black and Gold Regent bower bird, who spend the long spring days building a beautiful bower and play-ground lined with bright stones and shells from the mountain streams. The Rifle bird, so called by the early Australians because its brilliant plumage, reminded them of the gaudy uniform, of the early Rifle brigade. Also at the edge of the scrub in the Gum trees the little Bell birds, who secall is sweet and soft, like a silver bell.

Ony a few weeks ago, while visiting Mr. Eisenberg's aviaries, I was over-joyed to see so many Australian birds, even to the the bower birds, and Mr. Hall, the manager, who had just returned from collecting birds in Australia, told me that the bower birds were very scarce over there now, and that the Wonga Wonga's were almost extinct. Personally, I think there are more Wonga's in the United States today, than there are in their native Australia.

MEMORY IS THE TREASURE-HOUSE
OF THE MIND WHEREIN THE
MONUMENTS THEREOF ARE KEPT
AND PRESERVED.

Fuller.

All of which goes to prove that Mr. R. H. Gibson hit the nail on the head when he wrote in the May Gazette, (Quote,—It may very well be that the transplanting of some of these unusual species to America soil will be the means of saving them from complete extinction.



Now as I look down through the purple twilight of the long age, in fancy I see the magnificent Wompoo fruit eating pigeon, away up in the lofty branches of the wild Fig tree. What a beautiful sight it was. Also the fast flying Bronze-wing doves and pigeons, such a variety of the little fellows.

Then into the great Numinbah valley, my uncle Tom who had leased the valley as a cattle station, would show me the wild brush turkey's nest, a great circle twenty-four feet across, where the whole colony would lay hundreds of eggs, and cover them with leaf-mould. The eggs would hatch themselves and the young take off themselves from the start. The giant tree ferns where I would sit and watch for just a display of the Lyre bird's tail, but one has to sit very quietly, as the Lyre bird is one of God's shyest creatures.

PLEASURE IS THE FLOWER THAT
FADES:REMBERANCE THE LAST-
ING PERFUME.

-Bouffers.

Now as I look back down through life's joys and sorrows, its hopes and fears, I fully realize that God's greatest gift and blessing to me has been my great love for his feathered creatures.

He Talks

How many people are able to speak a language other than their native tongue? Comparatively few. Yet birds of many species are credited with the ability to talk. Some birds recite entire sentences or even several sentences. Can you talk the bird's language?

Now here is authentic evidence that pheasants can be taught to talk.

Allen Publishing Company
Salt Lake City, Utah

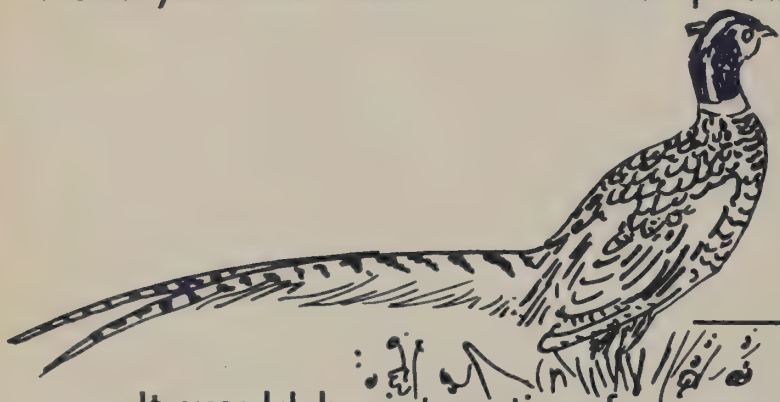
Dear Dr. Allen:

I was wondering if you have ever had a pheasant that would talk? I have a cock pheasant that was hatched May 18, 1953, who has learned to say "HELLO" distinctly. During mating season he had other interests and discontinued talking, but started again and he greets me everytime I go near his pen with a cheery "HELLO."

People do not believe me until I take them to his pen and they are surprised. Have you ever heard of another pheasant that has learned to talk?

Sincerely yours,

MRS. RENE P. SARGENT
R.F.D. 2, Sargent Road
Laconia, New Hampshire



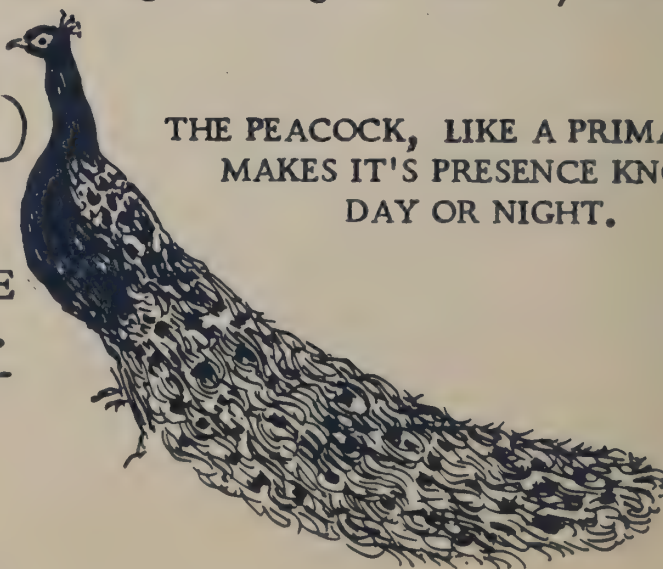
It would be interesting for some pheasant fanciers with spare time to try and teach one of their pet pheasants to repeat words. If a pheasant will do it for one person it is a sure thing that there are other pheasants who can be taught to do the same thing.

I can visualize a flock of pheasants greeting their master at feeding time with a cheery GOOD MORNING. If a race of Peafowl can be bred who will make pleasing remarks or musical sounds instead of alarming the neighborhood by calling HELP it would be a boon for peafowl breeders.

Good-MORNING

THE PEACOCK, LIKE A PRIMA DONNA,
MAKES IT'S PRESENCE KNOWN
DAY OR NIGHT.

"HE WHO DOESN'T ADVERTISE IS LIKE
A MAN WHO WINKS IN A DARK ROOM.
HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING BUT NO-
BODY ELSE DOES."



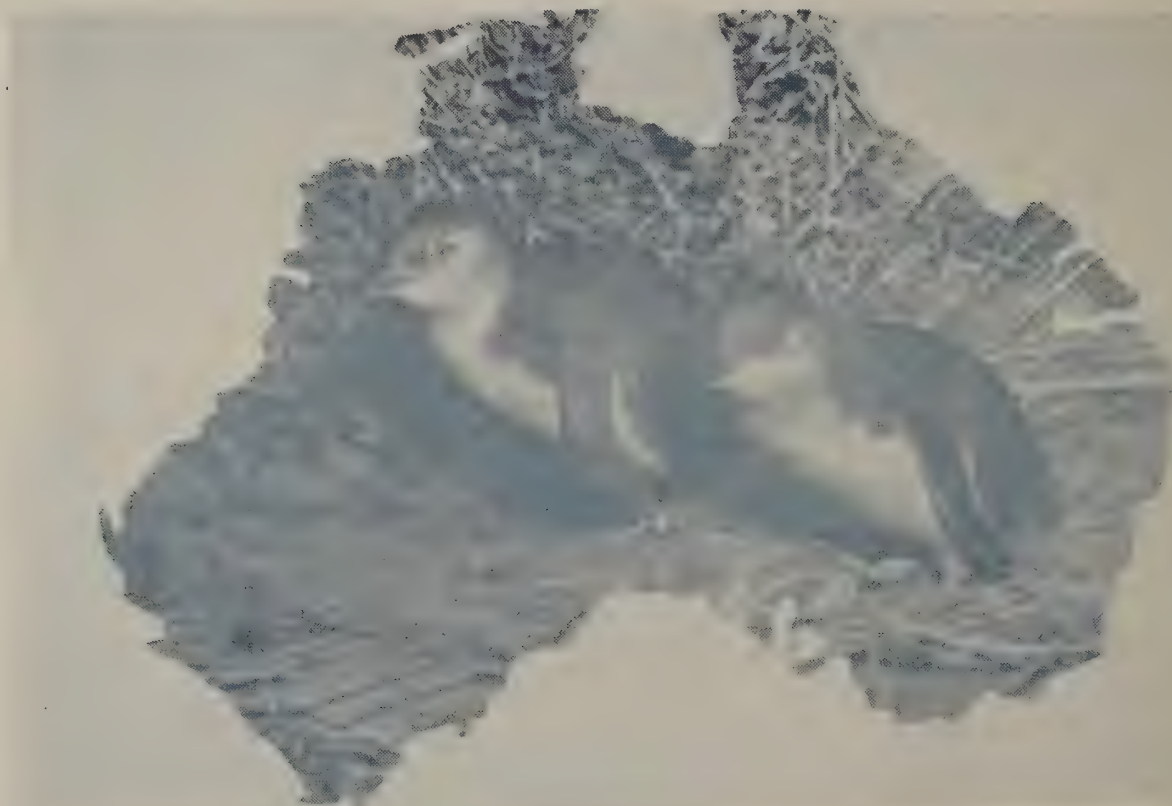


One of THE GAZETTE'S subscribers, Senor *Ylmar Linder* of Montevideo, Uruguay, South America sends these photographs of "CHAJAS" known in America as CRESTED SCREAMERS.

Snap-shots taken in the beautiful aviary show water birds in the back ground.

THE GAZETTE is proud of its contacts with aviculturists around the globe and we are always happy to print photographs of interest which are sent to us.

For a splendid account of SCREAMERS see the article published in the November 1952 GAZETTE by Me Kenton C. Lint, Curator of birds San Diego Zoo, San Diego, California, U. S. A.



FAIRY PENGUINS of Australilia

by MARGARET LAWRENCE



FOR many thousands of bird-lovers, there is no more fascinating spot in the Southern Hemisphere than a tiny island close to the south coast of Victoria, Australia.

Every night from September to January each year the odd little Fairy Penguins swarm out of the boiling surf and parade up the shores to their rockeries among the overhanging cliffs and sand dunes.

As they come ashore on Phillip Island, trim little figures in their white waistcoat and slate-blue coats, they pay little attention to the beams from the many flashlights which waiting visitors shine on them.



This nightly torchlight parade of the penguins is one of the most interesting highlights of the island's holiday-makers.

The little birds waddle almost up to the lights, swerving away almost at the last moment, but they continue to move on to the nests. In hollows scraped out of slopes covered by tussock grass or in clefts of the rocky cliffsides are their burrows of seaweed, grass and weeds.

Within the burrows are round white eggs or young birds, beaks open for the mouthfuls of whitebait that their parents are bringing them. Their bodies are covered with a thick coat of sooty black, with furry-grey ruffs, without a trace of the neat white waistcoats they will acquire later.

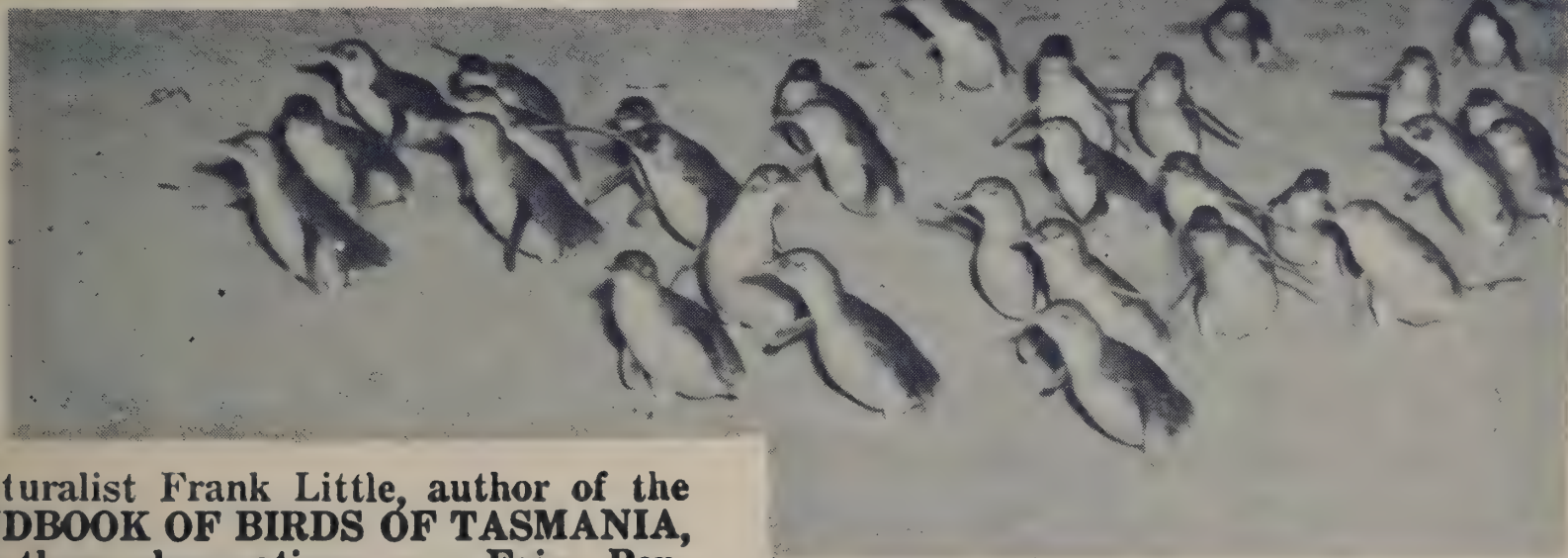
The little or Fairy Penguin (*Eudyptula minor* is his scientific name) is found only





in the Southern Hemisphere. He is much smaller than the King Penguin of Antarctica, standing no more than 18 inches high.

He is seen at his best as a swimmer, shooting after fish through long strands of kelp off a rocky coast. His wings, which are protected by a close downy covering and are without long feathers, make useful paddles for swimming.



Naturalist Frank Little, author of the **HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF TASMANIA**, made these observations on a Fairy Penguin rookery at Ninth Island, off the Tasmanian coast:-

"Night after night, rough or smooth, the various batches of penguins arrived promptly to the minute. . . It was usual for them to wait until a 'roller' washing them ashore on to the low rocks at their landing place; then before the backwash had time to carry them away they would rapidly scramble to safety, using feet, flappers and bills. One evening a party of birds were slightly late and they seemed to know it, for the speed with which they came through the water was truly astonishing—they gave one the impression of miniature torpedoes. So well did they make up the lost time that they were but a few seconds behind schedule time."

The Fairy Penguin's breeding season is from September to January, and his breeding grounds are rocky beaches and islands on the southern coast of Australia, the east coast as far north as northern New South Wales, and the coasts of Tasmania. The rookeries of Phillip Island are among the best-known of these breeding grounds.

This island, 14 miles long and six miles across at its widest point, is situated at the

mouth of Western Port Bay, 50 miles southeast of Melbourne.

Influx of thousands of visitors yearly has not spoiled the natural charm of the island, which is almost unique as a combination of holiday resort and nature sanctuary.

Koala bears peer down from the branches of leafy gumtrees by the roadside, seals slither over the Seal Rocks a quarter of a mile from the shore, dense clouds of mutton birds fly in to their rookeries at nightfall. Occasional kangaroos and wallabies leap through the scrub. There are opossums and black swans, ducks, coots, teal, dabchicks and other waterfowl.

Offshore are oyster-beds and good fishing grounds for schnapper, whiting, pike, rock cod and flathead.

But most visitor's happiest memories of Phillip Island are of the trim little gentlemen who stage the nightly Penguin Parade.

FINIS

Photos by N. Murray

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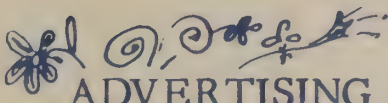
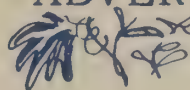
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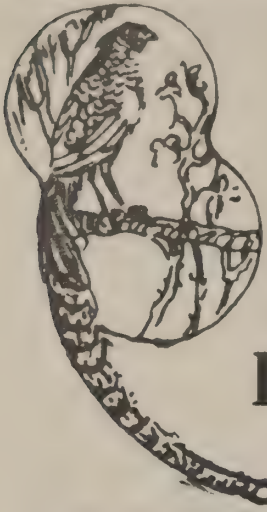
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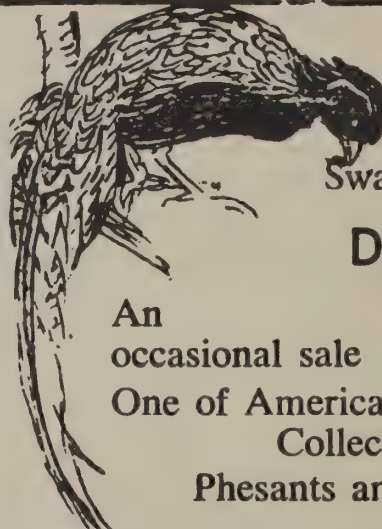
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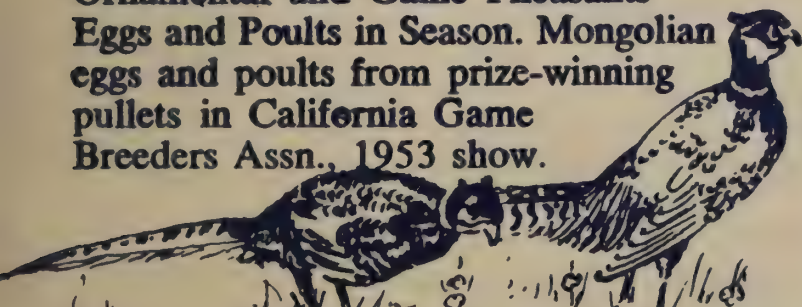
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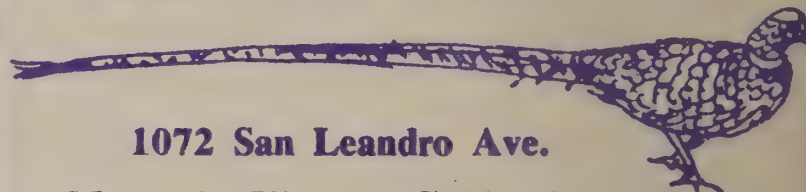
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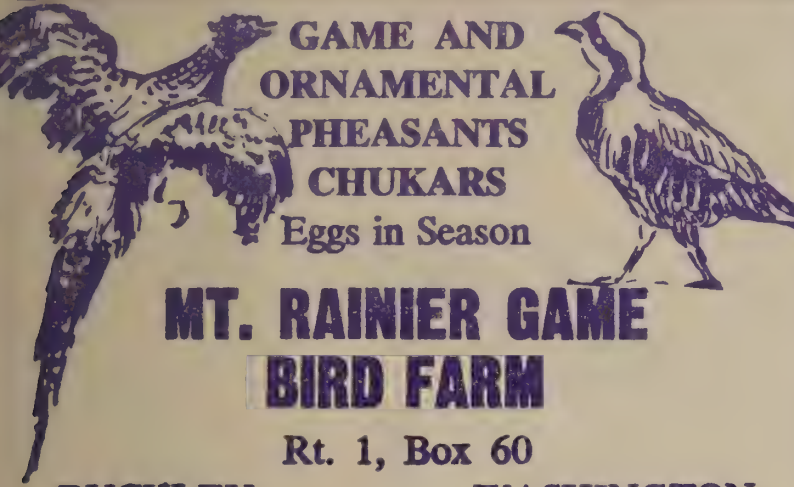
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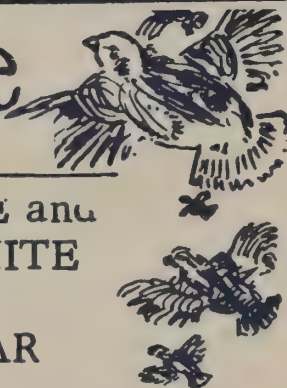
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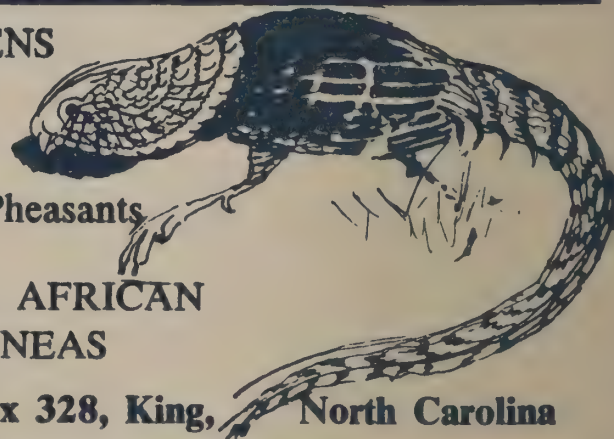
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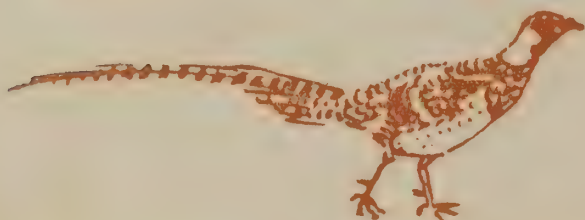


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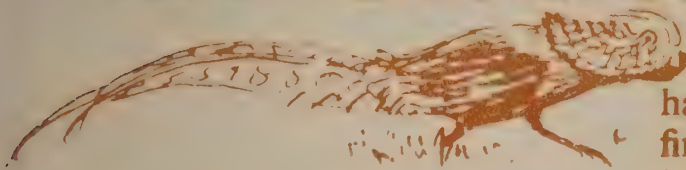
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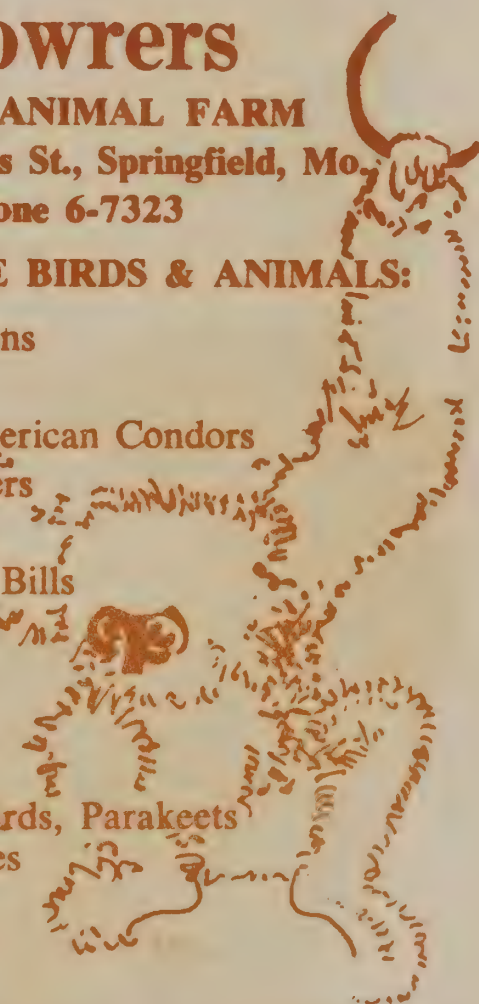
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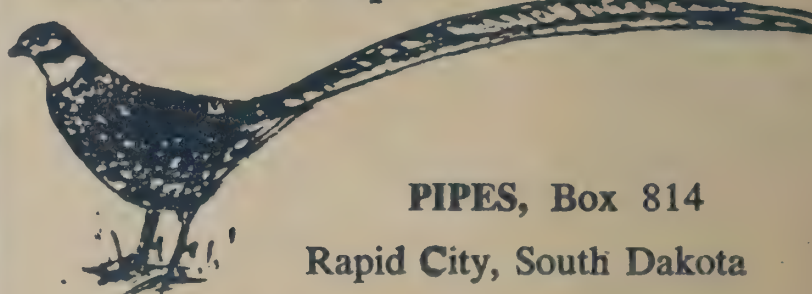
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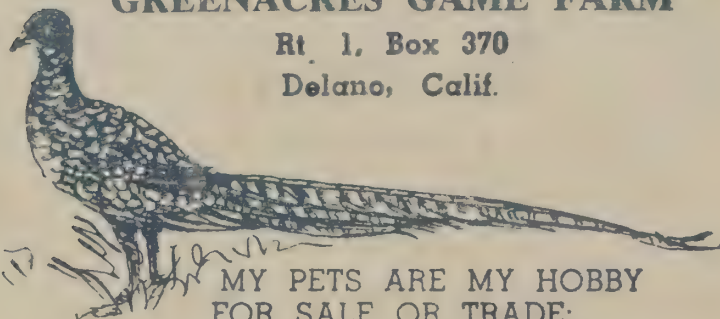
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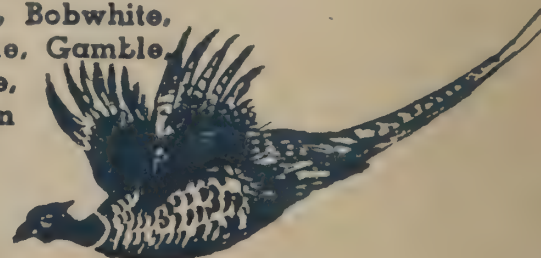
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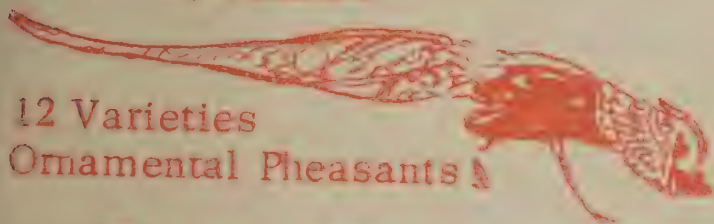
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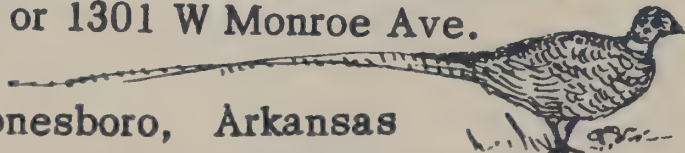
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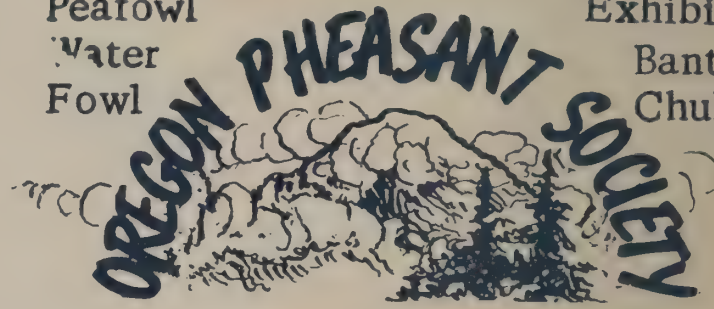
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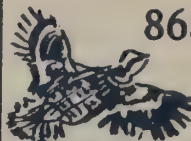
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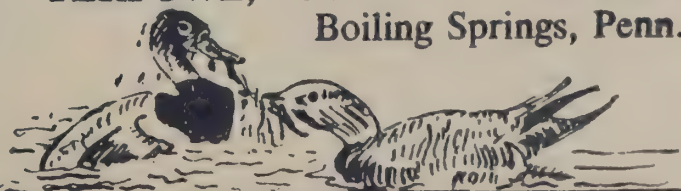


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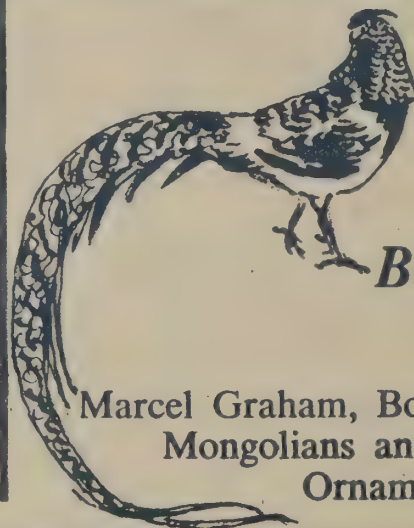
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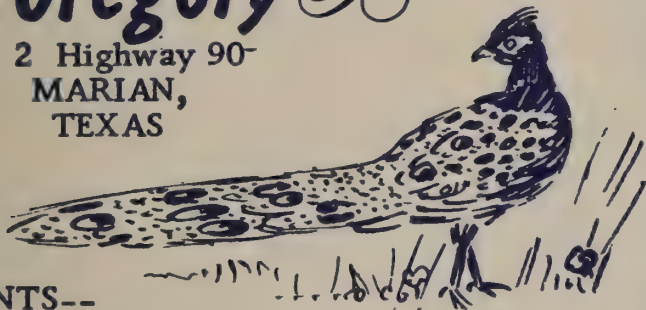
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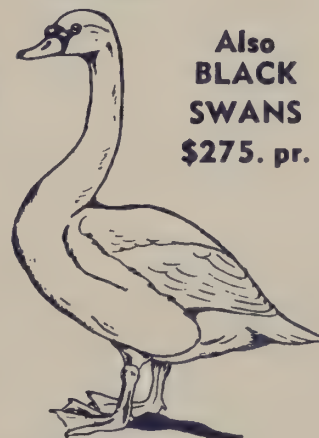
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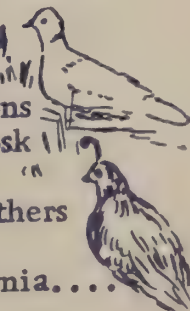
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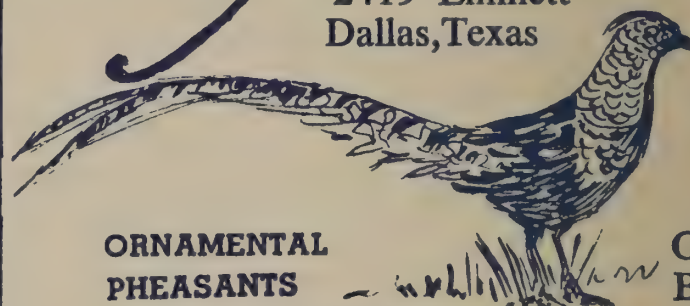
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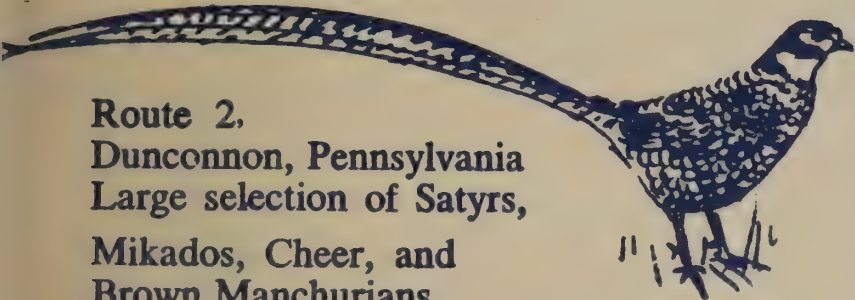
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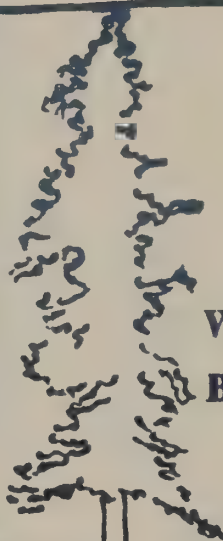
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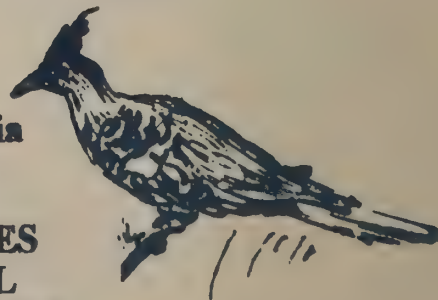


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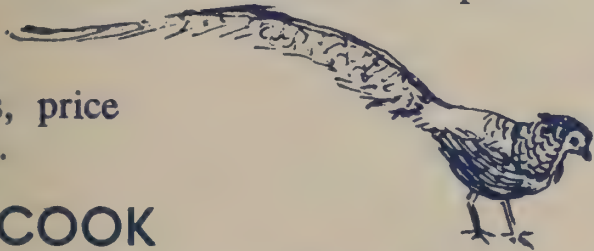
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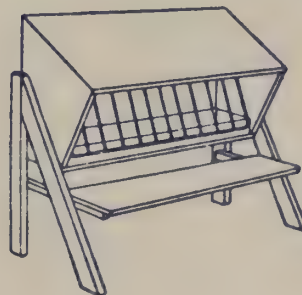
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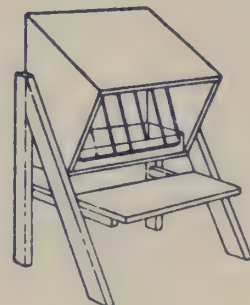
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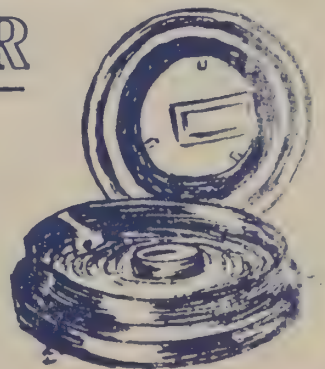
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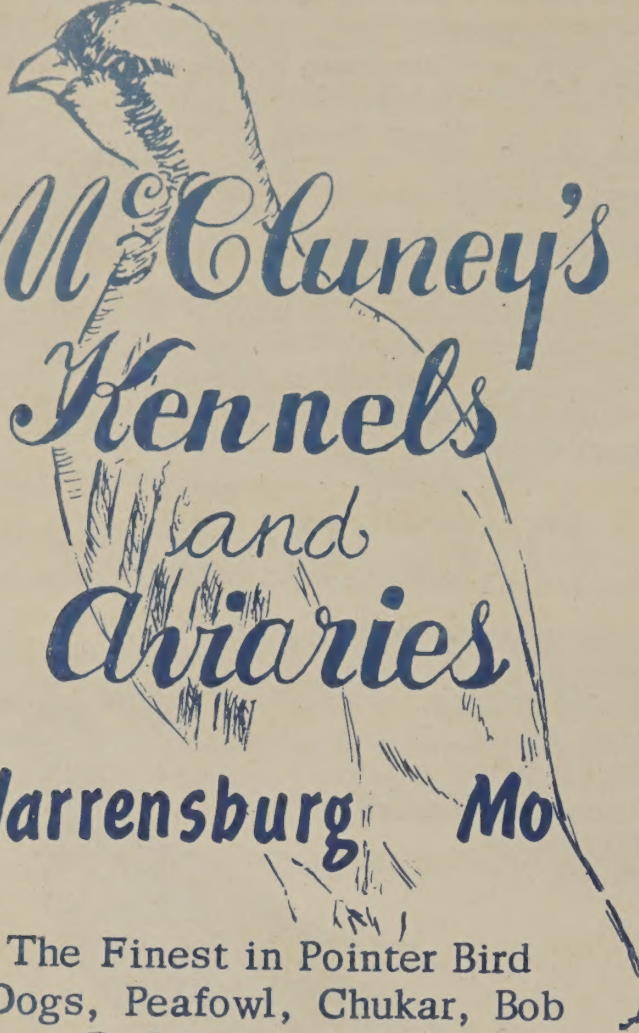
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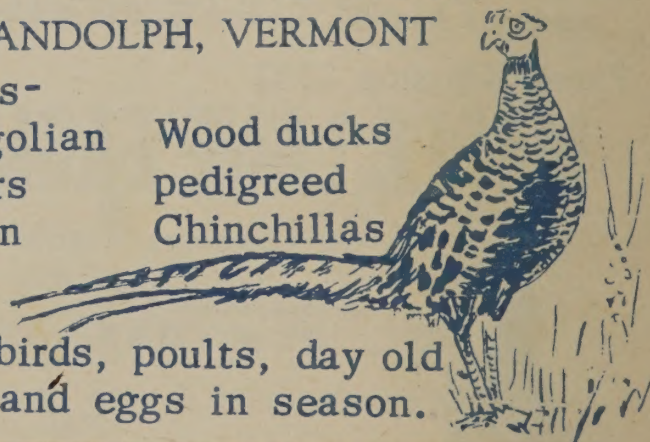
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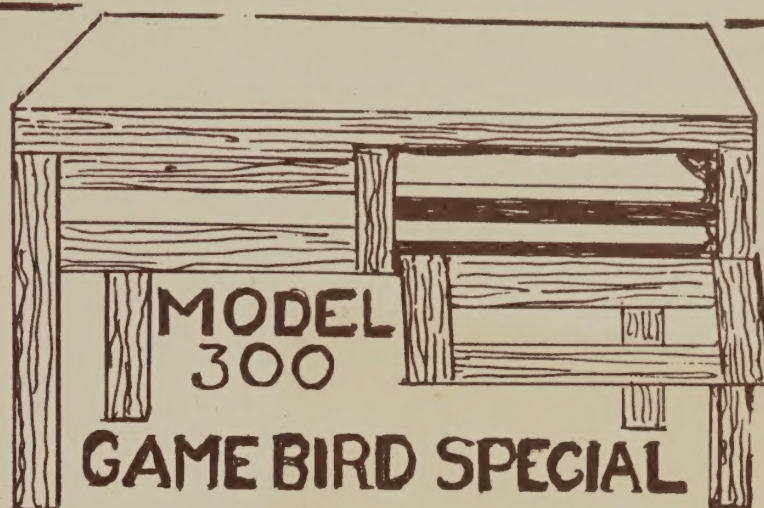
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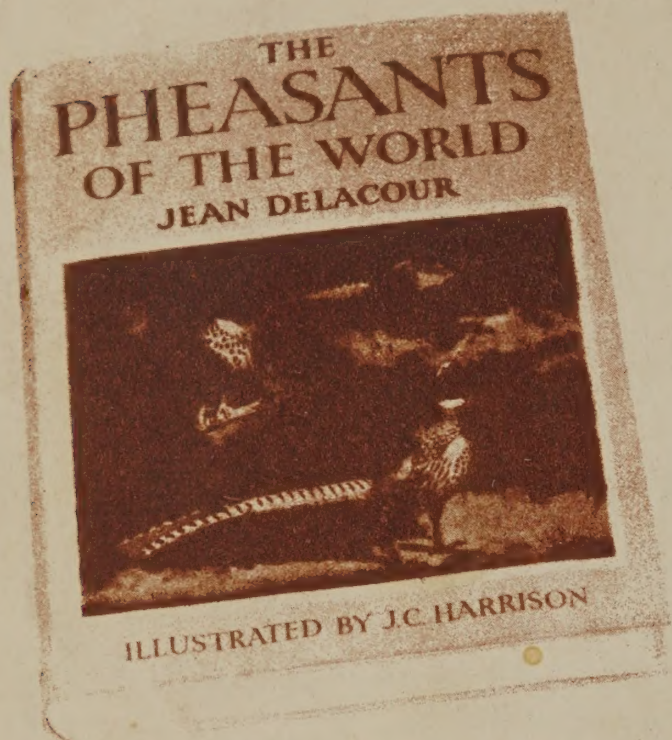
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